

15
PUBLIC HEALTH ACT

(11 & 12 Vict., Cap. 63.)

R E P O R T

TO THE

GENERAL BOARD OF HEALTH

ON A

FURTHER INQUIRY

HELD IN THE

TOWN OF EXMOUTH,

AND PARISHES OF LITTLEHAM AND WITHYCOMBE
RAWLEIGH, IN THE COUNTY OF DEVON.

CONSEQUENT UPON THE PROPOSED ALTERATION OF BOUNDARIES FOR
THE PURPOSES OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH ACT.

By THOMAS WEBSTER RAMMELL, Esq.,
SUPERINTENDING INSPECTOR.



LONDON :

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FOR HER MAJESTY'S STATIONERY OFFICE.

1850.

NOTIFICATION.

THE General Board of Health hereby give notice, in terms of section 9th of the Public Health Act, that on or before the 15th of July next, written statements may be forwarded to the Board with respect to any matter contained in or omitted from the accompanying Report on the Sewerage, Drainage, and Supply of Water, and the Sanitary Condition of the Inhabitants of the Town of EXMOUTH, and the Parishes of LITTLEHAM and WITHYCOMBE RAWLEIGH, or with respect to any amendment to be proposed therein.

By order of the Board,

HENRY AUSTIN, *Secretary.*

Gwydyr House, Whitehall,

June 7, 1850.

Report to the General Board of Health on a further Inquiry held in the Town of EXMOUTH, and the Parishes of LITTLEHAM and WITHYCOMBE RAWLEIGH, in the County of Devon, consequent upon the proposed Alteration of Boundaries for the purposes of the Public Health Act, 1848. By THOMAS WEBSTER RAMMELL, Esq., Superintending Inspector.

*Gwydyr House, Whitehall,
May 24, 1850.*

MY LORDS AND GENTLEMEN,

AN alteration in the existing boundaries having been recommended in my Report to your Honourable Board, upon a preliminary inquiry held in the town of Exmouth in the county of Devon, you were pleased to direct me again to visit the parts, to make the further inquiry necessary to the proposed district being constituted.

It appeared from the statements contained in that Report, that, in case the Public Health Act should be applied to Exmouth, the boundaries which may be most advantageously adopted for its purposes are not the same as those of the parish of Littleham, from which the petition for inquiry emanated; and that it would be proper to exclude from the parish of Littleham such parts of it as lie beyond the dotted line in the map accompanying the Report, and to add to the remainder such parts of the parish of Withycombe Rawleigh as lie within the same line.

In pursuance of these further directions, I caused the proper notice to be given of my intention to hold a public meeting at the Globe Inn, Exmouth, on the 22nd May instant; when I should be prepared to hear all parties desirous of being heard before me upon the subject of my former Report.

On proceeding to the appointed place I found a numerous attendance, including most of the influential ratepayers who had been present on the occasion of my former visit.

Having proved the publication of the notice, and ascertained that copies of it had been duly posted in the parts, I opened the proceedings by reading the written statements or memorials which had been forwarded to your Honourable Board, in compliance with the terms of the notification prefixed to my before-mentioned Report, and which are two in number; one being from "the Committee appointed at a general meeting of the rate-payers of the parishes of Littleham and Withycombe, held at Exmouth, pursuant to public notice, on the 4th day of February, 1850," and the other from "certain owners of property, or ratepayers, residing in the parishes of Littleham or Withycombe, in the county of Devon, within the district proposed to be included for the purposes of the Public Health Act;" the former documents expressing sentiments generally adverse to the application of the Act; the latter—which

was very numerous and respectably signed—favourable to such a measure.

I then informed the meeting that I was prepared to hear any person desirous of addressing me; whereupon Mr. Hull objected to the extension of the proposed boundary over the whole area of marsh land to the north of the town, stating that, in his opinion, the natural course of the Withycombe Brook would constitute a more proper line for it.

This gentleman, however, upon the reasons for such an extension being explained to him, did not insist upon his objection.

Mr. J. T. Coldridge, who appeared on behalf of the trustees of Lord Rolle, stated, that no objection would be raised by his clients to the proposed boundary in Littleham provided the line were maintained in its present course in Withycombe Rawleigh; but that in case of any alteration in the latter parish a corresponding one would be expected by them in the former.

Several parties expressed their opinions as to the propriety of including or excluding from the district the road forming a portion of the eastern boundary.

Mr. Bricknell thought the proposed boundary too much contracted, and would have preferred one including the whole of the two parishes. He also thought the proposed amount of qualification too high.

Sir Henry Browne stated, that the only point upon which the Committee were unanimous was the boundary; and that Mr. Bricknell was one of that body.

Dr. Kane observed, that one effect of carrying out the proposed works would be to return the house property (nearly the whole of the town in Littleham parish is leasehold) to the ground landlord, who would not contribute a farthing, in a much improved state; which, in his opinion, would be very inequitable.

Mr. Liffiton considered that it would be unfair to extend the boundary beyond the already proposed line.

I then replied to several questions, touching the nature of the powers contained in the Act, and the construction of some of its clauses, and having ascertained that no person desired to be heard further, closed the inquiry.

From this further inquiry I arrive at the conclusion that it is not expedient to alter in any manner the recommendations made to your Honourable Board in my Report upon a preliminary inquiry in this place.

I have the honour to be,

My Lords and Gentlemen,

Your very obedient Servant,

T. WEBSTER RAMMELL,

Superintending Inspector.

The General Board of Health.